

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 /045 W

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R 101517Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

SECSTATE WASHDC 1959

UNCLAS USBERLIN 0245

USIAC

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: NA

SUBJ: THIRTIETH BIRTHDAY FOR RIAS

1. RIAS 30TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OVER WEEKEND FEBRUARY 7-8 CHARACTERIZED BY EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS POURING IN FROM PROMINENT WELL-WISHERS IN WESTERN EUROPE AND UNITED STATES.

2. WEEKEND PRESS GAVE PARTICULAR PROMININENCE TO MESSAGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER (TAGESSPIEGEL HEADLINE: FORD AND KISSINGER CONGRATULATE RIAS; B.ZMC U.S. PRESIDENT FORD CONGRATULATES BERLIN BIRTHDAY CHILD). MESSAGES FROM DIRECTOR KEOGH AND AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND ALSO WIDELY TREATED. BERLIN NEWSPAPERS PARTICULARLY SEIZED ON PORTION PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZED THAT "RIAS REMAINS A SYMBOL OF AMERICA'S TIES TO BERLIN AND ITS PEOPLE" AND SECRETARY'S CHARACTERIZATION OF RIAS AS "LIVING PROOF OF THE AMERICAN PRESENCE..." SEVERAL PAPERS IN EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES MIRRORED SENTIMENT OF LARGE-CIRCULATION DAILY MORGEN POST THAT "TODAY THIS STATION IS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOL OF THE AMERICAN GUARANTEE FOR THE CONTINUING SECURITY AND VIABILITY OF FREE BERLIN. IT ALSO OFFERS ONE OF THE FEW REAL POSSIBILITIES TO PRACTICE,

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DESPITE THE WALL, THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AGREED UPON

IN HELSINKI."

3. GERMAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, INCLUDING CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, PRESIDENT SCHEEL, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, BUNDESTAG PRESIDENT RINGER AND LEADERS OF MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ALSO SENT BEST WISHES, AS DID CHIEF OFFICERS OF BBC, SENDER FREIES BERLIN AND DOZENS OF OTHERS. FEDERAL CHANCELLOR CHARACTERIZED RIAS IN HIS MESSAGE AS "SUPERB EXAMPLE OF EFFECTIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMAN AND AMERICANS."

4. IN ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR BIRTHDAY, RIAS DIRECTOR GERT WAS INTERVIEWED BY DEUTSCHE WELLE AND AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK; DEPUTY DIRECTOR AGNIEL WAS INTERVIEWED BY BRITISH FORCES NETWORK.

5. RIAS STAFF ITSELF CELEBRATED WITH FUFFET-DANCE FEBRUARY 6 AND CLIMAXED WEEKEND WITH GALA MUSICAL EVENING FOR BERLIN PUBLIC AT PHILHARMONIC FEBRUARY 9 WHICH DREW PACKED HOUSE AND ELICITED ENTHUSIASM FOR PERFORMANCES BY GERMAN AND AMERICAN SINGERS NOT OFTEN MATCHED IN THIS RENOWNED HALL.ROSINUS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RADIO STATIONS, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PROP, WB, GE, RIAS  
**To:** USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006